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PATENT
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**MAMMALIAN IAP GENE FAMILY, PRIMERS, PROBES
AND DETECTION METHODS**

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Cross Reference to Related Applications

8e - This application is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/011,356, filed February 4, 1998 (now ^{U.S. Patent No. 6,656,704} ~~pending~~), which is a U.S. National Phase application of PCT/IB/96/01022, filed August 5, 1996, and published in English under PCT article 21(2), which ^{is Continuation-in-part of} ~~claims benefit from~~ U.S.S.N. 08/576,956, filed December 22, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,156,535), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 08/511,485, filed August 4, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,919,912), all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

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Background of the Invention

The invention relates to apoptosis.

20 There are two general ways by which cells die. The most easily recognized way is by necrosis, which is usually caused by an injury that is severe enough to disrupt cellular homeostasis. Typically, the cell's osmotic pressure is disturbed and, consequently, the cell swells and then ruptures. When the cellular contents are spilled into the surrounding tissue space, an inflammatory response often ensues.

25 The second general way by which cells die is referred to as apoptosis, or programmed cell death. Apoptosis often occurs so rapidly that it is difficult to detect. This may help to explain why the involvement of apoptosis in a wide spectrum of biological processes has only recently been recognized.